REMARKS

By this Preliminary Amendment, the multiple claim dependency has been removed by deleting the multiple dependency from claims 3-4, 12-15, 20-25, 28-29, 37-40 and adding new claims 45-64.

Respectfully submitted,

Takashi NISHIHARA et al.

y = 1/2 | D | D

Registration No. 41,471

Attorney for Applicants

JRF/fs Washington, D.C. 20006-1021 Telephone (202) 721-8200 Facsimile (202) 721-8250 February 27, 2004

14